



**STATEMENT OF MUTUAL COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
AND THE HOME DEPOT**

America's soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and Coastguardsmen stand vigilant and prepared, ready and willing to place themselves in harm's way, at the risk of life and limb, to protect our Nation. The fruits of their commitment and courage are found in the rights and freedoms Americans have enjoyed for 228 years. Such selfless service and sacrifice earn our Nation's defenders the honored title "Veteran."

We recognize that America's veterans, especially our service-connected disabled veterans, bring to our Nation's workforce a rich resource of diverse and talented workers eager and capable to contribute as much to our Nation's prosperity as civilians as they contributed to our Nation's security when they stood on the front lines of freedom in combat, and in the watchtowers of Democracy in times of peace.

Therefore, the Department of Veterans Affairs and The Home Depot are mutually committed to ensuring these brave men and women have access to both challenging and rewarding employment opportunities, in keeping with President Abraham Lincoln's 1865 promise "...to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan."

The Department of Veterans Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program is a national employment resource providing customized employee solutions for service-connected disabled veterans.

This innovative agreement between the Department of Veterans Affairs and The Home Depot will afford service-connected disabled veterans opportunities to seek employment, career advancement, job mobility, family economic well being, and greater financial security.

Therefore, the Department of Veterans Affairs and The Home Depot pledge to:

- Create a foundation of greater awareness of employment opportunities for service-connected disabled veterans;
- Construct new lines of communication to inform service-connected disabled veterans about employment opportunities like the ones offered by The Home Depot; and
- Share our Statement of Mutual Cooperation throughout the Department of Veterans Affairs and The Home Depot.

Anthony J. Principi
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
Department of Veterans Affairs

Robert L. Nardelli
Chairman, President & CEO
The Home Depot



Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of the Chief of Staff

September 16, 2004

Ms. Connie McLendon
Senior Manager, Human Resources
The Home Depot
2455 Paces Ferry Road
Atlanta, GA 30339

Dear Ms. McLendon:


Enclosed is the Statement of Mutual Cooperation between the Department of Veterans Affairs and The Home Depot signed by Secretary Anthony J. Principi.

I am sending this by Federal Express to allow sufficient time for your review and signature in advance of the kickoff of Operation Career Front on September 21, 2004. It is our understanding that Mr. Robert L. Nardelli will be bringing the signed statement to Washington on Tuesday for the ceremony at the National Press Club.

VA is very pleased that The Home Depot has designed this program targeting veterans, active duty personnel, National Guard, Reservists and military spouses.

We look forward to working with you. Thank you for your interest in our Nation's veterans and servicemembers. If you have any questions or need additional information, you may reach me at (202) 273 - 4808.

Sincerely yours,


Thomas Bowman
Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure